

**CRIMINAL SALE OF A FIREARM  
IN THE FIRST DEGREE  
(Three or more within one year)  
Penal Law § 265.13(2)  
(Committed on or after May 9, 2022)<sup>1</sup>  
(Revised July 2016, May 2022)<sup>2</sup>**

The (specify) count is Criminal Sale of a Firearm in the First Degree.

Under our law, a person is guilty of Criminal Sale of a Firearm in the First Degree when that person knowingly<sup>3</sup> and unlawfully sells, exchanges, gives, or disposes of to another person or persons a total of three or more firearms in a period of not more than one year.

The following terms used in that definition have a special meaning:

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<sup>1</sup> In May 2022, this instruction was amended to account for the statutory amendment reducing the number of applicable firearms from ten to three. L. 2022, c. 56, effective May 9, 2022. This instruction may, however, be utilized for the alleged commission of the offense between December 21, 2005, and May 9, 2022, with the number of requisite firearms changed to ten.

<sup>2</sup> In July 2016, in light of *People v Parrilla*, 27 NY3d 400 (2016), this instruction was revised to better state the law with respect to the element of “knowingly.”  
In May 2022, this instruction was revised as specified in footnote (1).

<sup>3</sup> The word “knowingly” has been added to this definition to comport with statutory law (see Penal Law § § 15.00(2); 15.05 [2]) and with case law. *People v Persce*, 204 NY 397, 402 (1912) (“the possession [of a slungshot] which is meant is a knowing and voluntary one”); *People v Saunders*, 85 NY2d 339, 341-42 (1995) (“‘Possession,’ as part of the forbidden act, includes the Penal Law definitional component of ‘[v]oluntary act,’ which incorporates the attribute of awareness of the possession or control (Penal Law § 15.00 [2]). Thus, the corpus delicti of weapons possession . . . is the voluntary, aware act of the possession of a weapon”); *People v Ford*, 66 NY2d 428, 440 (1985) (the offense of possession of a loaded firearm requires that the possession be knowing).

A FIREARM means any pistol or revolver.<sup>4</sup>

A person KNOWINGLY sells, exchanges, gives, or disposes of three or more firearms to another when that person is aware that he or she is doing so.<sup>5</sup>

Under this count, a firearm need not be loaded but it must be operable. To be operable, a firearm must be capable of discharging ammunition. The person who sells, exchanges, gives, or disposes of a firearm is not required to know that the firearm is operable.<sup>6</sup>

A person UNLAWFULLY sells, exchanges, gives, or disposes of three or more firearms to another when he has no legal right to do so. Under our law, with certain exceptions not applicable here, a person has no legal right to sell, exchange, give, or dispose of a firearm.<sup>7</sup>

DISPOSE OF means to dispose of, give away, lease, loan, keep for sale, offer for sale, sell, transfer and otherwise dispose of.<sup>8</sup>

In order for you to find the defendant guilty of this crime, the People are required to prove, from all of the evidence in the case, beyond a reasonable doubt, each of the following three elements:

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<sup>4</sup> Penal Law § 265.00(3). The statutory definition of a “firearm” includes other weapons. If, therefore, a firearm, other than a pistol or revolver, is in issue, see “DEFINITION OF FIREARM AS OTHER THAN A PISTOL OR REVOLVER” in “Additional Charges” at the end of the Table of Contents for Penal Law article 265 crimes.

<sup>5</sup> See Penal Law § 15.05 (2). An expanded definition of “knowingly” is available in the General Charges section under Culpable Mental States.

<sup>6</sup> Case law has added “operability” of a firearm as an element of the crime (see *People v Longshore*, 86 NY2d 851, 852 [1995]), but has further held that there is no requirement that the possessor know the firearm was operable (see *People v Parrilla*, 27 NY3d 400 (2016), [“Defendants need only knowingly possess a firearm, they need not know that the firearm was loaded or operable”]; *People v Saunders*, 85 NY2d 339, 341-342 [1995]; *People v Ansare*, 96 AD2d 96, 97 [4th Dept 1983]). In December 2022, the last sentence was substituted for: “The defendant is not required to know that the firearm was operable.”

<sup>7</sup> See Penal Law article 400.

<sup>8</sup> Penal Law § 265.00(6).

1. That on or about (date) , in the county of (County), the defendant, (defendant's name), sold, exchanged, gave, or disposed of three or more firearms to another;
2. That the defendant did so knowingly and unlawfully; and
3. That [each] [at least three] of the firearms (was/were) operable.

If you find the People have proven beyond a reasonable doubt each of those elements, you must find the defendant guilty of this crime.

If you find the People have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt any one or more of those elements, you must find the defendant not guilty of this crime.